



Congressman *John Lewis*

SPECIAL REPORT TO THE FIFTH DISTRICT

Winter 2003

Paschal's Place in History Preserved

Congressman Lewis secured \$100,000 of federal funding for the renovation and preservation of Paschal's restaurant and motel in Atlanta through the VA-HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act in FY 2004.

"Paschal's played a critical role in our nation's struggle for civil rights," the Congressman affirmed. "The restaurant did not just nourish the bodies of our nation's civil rights leaders; it nourished their minds and their souls."

There movement leaders, such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., came to plan sit-ins and marches. Congressman Lewis recalls Paschal's as the place where they planned the historic march from Selma to Montgomery. And it is also the last place he saw Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. alive.

This restaurant and motel is an icon that links many in the 5th Congressional district to its prominent historic past. Congressman Lewis is dedicated to preserving this landmark for future generations.

Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit or Detriment?

Congressman Lewis opposed the passage of the Medicare prescription drug legislation (H.R.1), which virtually overhauled the Medicare system as we know it.

Even though this bill creates a prescription drug benefit for Medicare beneficiaries and establishes a new Medicare Advantage program to replace the current Medicare+Choice program, it fails to offer a prescription drug package that all of our seniors can count on.

"I strongly believe that Medicare is a sacred trust between the American government and the American people," said Congressman Lewis in an impassioned appeal to his colleagues on the House floor. "I believe — with all my heart — with all my soul — with all my being," he continued, "That Medicare must have a meaningful prescription drug benefit that is voluntary, universal, affordable, and accessible to all our seniors. That is why I voted against this bill."

Under H.R.1, 2 to 3 million seniors could lose their retiree prescription drug coverage; up to 6.4 million of the poorest Medicare beneficiaries could receive less drug coverage than they have now; and millions of seniors could see their Medicare premiums rise if they refuse to join an HMO.

Even within one state, individual seniors may pay dramatically different premiums; sometimes one could pay twice as much as the other for the same Medicare benefit.

"I strongly believe no senior should have to choose between

putting food on their table and buying their prescription drugs," said Congressman Lewis in his opposition to the plan. "As a member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health and as a senior citizen myself, I will continue to fight for an affordable, guaranteed prescription drug benefit under Medicare."

The prescription drug benefit will not become effective until 2006. Until that time Medicare beneficiaries will be offered a discount drug card.



**Blood pressure screenings at
Seniors Forum on December 4th.**

On the War in Iraq

In October, Congress voted to approve the President's request for \$87 billion in additional funding for reconstruction and ongoing military operations in Iraq. In good conscience, I could not support funding to continue what I believe is the President's misled, failed policy.

I did not support our unilateral action against Iraq, because I believed that all diplomatic measures should have been exhausted. Going to war should always be a last resort. Nonetheless, I fervently support our troops, even if I cannot support this Administration's foreign policy.

The President's supplemental request provides Iraq with billions in new funding for roads and infrastructure, housing, schools, hospitals and medical care, while, his Administration's budget has cut funding for the same projects here at home. There are 9 million Americans out of work. The U.S. has lost 3.2 million private sector jobs since January 2001. Yet, President Bush expects us to fund the creation of 3 million new jobs in Iraq.

The truth is that the President has offered no assurances that this additional funding will help us achieve the intended goal in Iraq. In fact, we have already spent almost \$53 billion on Iraq for the war, reconstruction projects and security initiatives. Yet, living standards for many Iraqis have not improved. Chaos, crime and violence persist in the streets and our troops are in greater danger than they were during major combat operations. We're losing our brave soldiers at a rate of almost one a day, which is more than double the number of troops killed during the war itself.

With so much at stake, the American people deserve more accountability before we borrow billions more for this ill-conceived and open-ended effort. I will continue to demand answers to the questions that remain and urge my colleagues to hold this Administration accountable to the American people by demanding a clear strategy for the future of Iraq.

Congressman Lewis Stands for Clean Air Protections

When Congress debated the Energy Bill, Congressman Lewis sought to ensure that our clean air standards were not weakened. During the consideration of H.R. 6, The Energy Policy Act of 2003, language was introduced that allowed communities with deteriorating air quality to delay toxic air cleanup and slow down adoption of additional health safeguards to counteract the situation.

Since Atlanta has struggled to meet Clean Air Act standards, this legislation would ultimately result in additional asthma attacks, hospitalizations, emergency room visits and new cases of asthma that otherwise could be avoided.

"I am strongly opposed to this kind of proposal," said Congressman Lewis, "And I will continuously vote against these additions as we consider Clean Air legislation next year".

Commuter Rail Study Plots Path to Better Transit

The Congressman has been a strong supporter of commuter rail and the downtown Multimodal Terminal since he first obtained funding for the project in 1991. Commuter rail would not just alleviate congestion and improve air quality; it would spur economic development around the Multimodal Terminal site and in all the areas served by commuter rail. While the state has yet to spend the over \$20 million in federal funding the Congressman helped obtain for the Multimodal Terminal in 1997, he is hopeful that commuter rail will soon serve metro Atlanta.

Congressman Lewis also has been at the forefront of efforts to increase transit options within

Atlanta's urban core. In 1998, he first sought federal funding to study transit proposals that would connect the Atlanta University Center to Centennial



Park, Atlantic Station, Lindbergh and Emory University. In 2003, those efforts paid off, as he spearheaded federal funding for a study of urban tran-

sit corridors, including the AUC-Emory line and Atlanta City Council President Cathy Woolard's popular Belt Line proposal. This study should be concluded in October 2004.

Congressman Lewis also supports efforts to put streetcars on Peachtree Street, running a light rail from Cobb County to Atlanta, and providing high-speed transit along I-285. If Atlanta is to clean its air, reduce gridlock and reclaim its title as a leader in transportation, it must make major investments in transit and other alternative forms of transportation. Congressman Lewis will continue to lead the fight for this vision.

The Fifth Congressional District of Georgia High School Arts Competition

Each spring, Congressman John Lewis hosts a Congressional Arts Competition for all high school students who attend a public or private high school located in the Fifth Congressional District. This competition is an exciting opportunity for young artists to share their talents with the community and to compete for national recognition.

Participants' art is usually exhibited at the Youth Art Connection Gallery in Atlanta during the competition. In addition, this year the Atlanta-Fulton County Public Library Teen Tech Center decided to display a retrospective of teen art remaining in the archive of this competition dating back to 1997.

Guidelines for the 2004 competition will soon be mailed to Fifth District High School Arts Committee judges who will be contacting high school art teachers shortly. Each high school within the district can submit two works of art to represent their school. Out of all the entries within the district, three winners will be chosen.

In the past scholarships to the Art Institute of Atlanta (AIA) have been offered as awards to the winners. First prize has been a \$10,000 scholarship, the second prize—a \$5000 scholarship, and the third prize—a \$2000 scholarship all to the AIA. This year's winning work of art will be announced at an event honoring participants on May 14, 2004, at the Youth Art Connection Gallery.

The first prize winner and his/her art teacher will fly to Washington, D.C. for a day to be honored at an awards presentation. The first prize-winning work of art will also be exhibited in the United States Capitol for one year as a representative of the talent in the Fifth District of Georgia and hangs along with the work of other winners in congressional districts across the country.

The District Office coordinates this upcoming event. Please call (404) 659-0116 if you need additional information. Congressman Lewis delights in seeing this wonderful display of Georgia youthfulness, creativity and talent. It is one of the highlights of his job as the representative of the Fifth Congressional District of Georgia.



Congressman Lewis Hosts Fifth District Forums

Over the past year, Congressman Lewis has traveled throughout his district hosting a series of eight informal town hall meetings. He enjoys this opportunity to meet and speak with constituents in an informal setting. While all residents of Georgia's Fifth Congressional District

are invited to come to the events, they are designed to focus on the concerns of constituents living in each part of the District.

In June, the Congressman hosted gatherings in Smyrna, Sandy Springs, East Point and Buckhead. The invasion of Iraq and Congress's effort to provide a prescription drug benefit for Medicare recipients were common topics at each of these meetings. In addition, each region voiced its own special concerns. Immigration was a popular topic at the Smyrna event; Sandy Springs residents were especially concerned about transportation issues; individual concerns were prevalent in East

Point; and Buckhead residents focused on environmental concerns.

On September 6, the Congressman hosted a single Meet-n-Greet at Inman Middle School in Virginia Highlands. Residents asked questions about the War in Iraq, transportation and education issues — especially the adverse impact of the recently passed No Child Left Behind Act.

The Adams Park Library and Grant Park were the sites of constituent gatherings on October 18. While residents questioned the War in Iraq here as well, there was growing concern about Atlanta's sewers, particularly the impact fixing the sewers would have on residents' water and sewer bills. (See related article regarding efforts to get federal funding for this effort.)

December 3 marked the final Meet-n-Greet of 2003. The event was held in the lobby of 999 Peachtree Street (at the corner of Peachtree and 10th) where they discussed similar Congressional issues.



Congressman Lewis discussed 5th District concerns about Atlanta's sewer problem, Medicare and the War on Iraq at a recent constituent forum.

Congressman Lewis's Legislation

National Museum to Celebrate Contributions of African Americans

Congressman John Lewis directed successful House passage of a bill authorizing the creation of the first National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. His efforts culminate nearly 100 years of struggle to commemorate the significant contributions of African American soldiers, scientists, educators, artists, activists, businesspersons, pioneers and leaders to American achievement.



Congressman Lewis announces the passage of the museum bill through both Houses of Congress at a Senate press conference. (L-R) Sen. Sam Brownback (KS), Congressman John Lewis and Rep. Elijah Cummings (MD).

"The effort to create a national African American museum has not been easy. It has been a long, hard, tedious journey. We are here today because members, staff, and many supporters never gave up. They did not give out. They did not give in. When we began this journey, I often said that we must pace ourselves for the long haul. And we must keep the faith," Congressman Lewis remarked in his statement on the House floor.

Black Civil War veterans began the fight for this museum, and Congressman Lewis took up the charge. He committed 15 years of his professional life to establish this historic monument, introducing legislation in every congressional session since 1988.

"African American history is an integral part of our country," he asserted. "Yet the vital contributions of African Americans go virtually unrecognized. Until we understand the full African American story, we cannot understand ourselves as a nation."

The museum will be built on or adjacent to the National Mall and will become a part of the Smithsonian Institution, establishing the only national institution devoted to the documentation of African American life, art, history and culture.

"The new museum will house a permanent collection of artifacts and historical materials," Lewis said, "Showcasing over 400 years of African American history and culture. Preserving this rich record of African Americans, studying their experiences, and presenting those experiences through exhibits to the public would be of incalculable value."

"Establishing this national African American museum is our chance to take an important step to heal our nation's racial wounds," he continued. "There is still a lot of pain and hurt that lies deep within the American psyche. We cannot run from it. We cannot push it under the rug or in a dark corner. We must face it if America is to become a nation that values liberty and justice for all Americans".

Congressman Lewis fashioned a bipartisan effort to make this dream a reality, working closely with Congressman Jack Kingston (R-GA), Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT) and Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS) as well as other House and Senate legislators across party lines. Passage of this historic legislation and its signing into law begins the effort to raise \$200 million of private support for this museum, which must be matched by Federal funding.

Congress Mourns Passing of Atlanta's Mayor

Congress passed a bill honoring Maynard Holbrook Jackson, Jr., former Mayor of the City of Atlanta on July 16, 2003. House Resolution 303 was introduced by Congressman Lewis, and it extended the formal condolences of the House of Representatives upon Jackson's death, offering several members of the Georgia delegation an opportunity to publicly praise the former mayor, including Representatives David Scott, Jim Marshall, and Denise Majette.

Maynard Jackson was more than the Mayor of a great city. He was a bridge builder, a pioneer, and a champion of inclusion for all people. During his tenure, he fostered interracial understanding among Atlanta's citizens and transformed the city into a thriving metropolis with national and international influence. Congressman Lewis has hailed Maynard Jackson as one of the founding fathers of the new Atlanta, the new South and the new America.

Amendment Extends Age Limit for One-stop Career Centers

Congressman Lewis successfully steered the passage of an amendment to The Workforce Reinvestment & Adult Education Act of 2003 (H.R. 1261) that will extend the age limit of participants in job training programs to 24 years of age.

Prior to the passage of this amendment, adult education and youth training programs such as YouthBuild, Job Corps, Conservation Corps and others could only offer services to students up to 21-years-old. However, new research reveals that the needs of a 22 to 24-year-old high school dropout are closer to those of an 18 to 21-year-old than they are to adults in their late twenties and early thirties. By extending the age requirement to 24, Congressman Lewis helps ensure that these important community programs can meet the needs of today's youth. H.R. 1261 is now being considered by the U.S. Senate.

Legislative Accomplishments

Legislation Introduced to Ease City Sewer Strain

Atlanta officials are facing immense challenges to the city's water resources infrastructure that threaten the economy and natural resources of the entire State.

As a response to this crisis, the City has begun an aggressive program of improving its regional storm and waste-water collection, storage, and treatment facilities. The City's clean water initiative will cost an estimated \$3 billion, which could triple sewer and water rates by 2014 and present a severe financial burden to low-income residents.

In next the few months, Congressman Lewis will introduce legislation that will provide \$1 billion in federal funding for Atlanta sewers. This money, along with state and city resources, will allow the City to repair its dilapidated sewer system without putting the cost on the shoulders of Atlanta residents.

"I look forward to working with my colleagues in Washington next year," said Congressman Lewis, "To ensure that the federal government lives up to its responsibility to help Atlanta residents."

This year he secured a total of \$1.7 million in federal funding for Atlanta sewers.

Emergency Access Secured for Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic Site

Before the unanimous House passage of The Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site Land Exchange Act (H.R. 1616) there was no emergency access to its monuments. That means that if a fire broke out, threatening the lives of visitors, staff, and the historic treasures housed there, firefighters would have virtually no way to reach the facilities.

Congressman Lewis's bill authorizes the exchange of land within the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site for land owned by the City of Atlanta. This exchange will help create emergency access to the site.

This bill is a win-win for all parties. The acquisition of city-owned property would enable the National Park Service to establish easy street access to the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site Visitors Center and Museum, and the City could develop a thriving commercial section on the land it gains.

H.R. 1616 is currently under consideration in the Senate and will have to be passed there and unopposed by the President to become law.

Federal Funding Secured for Fifth Congressional District

For Fiscal Years 2003 and 2004, Congressman Lewis has secured over \$24 million in federal funding for the 5th Congressional District. Following is a list of some of the projects that he has worked on:

Appropriation Projects for FY 2003

- MARTA North Line Extension \$16,100,000
- MARTA buses, clean fuel buses and facilities \$2,500,000
- Multimodal Terminal \$2,000,000
- City of Atlanta, Nancy Creek project, for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements \$1,800,000
- Georgia State University Science Laboratory . \$400,000
- Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness \$350,000
- St. Joseph's Mercy Care Services breast and cervical cancer screening and treatment program \$350,000
- Morehouse School of Medicine \$300,000
- Morehouse College Performing Arts Center \$180,000
- Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta \$100,000

Appropriation Projects for FY 2004

- Georgia State University, construction of the Science Research and Teaching Laboratory Building \$1,150,000
- Morehouse School of Medicine \$400,000
- Morehouse College Performing Arts Center \$100,000
- Spelman College \$50,000
- Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta \$75,000
- City of Atlanta, Georgia for renovation and restoration of the historic Paschal's restaurant and motel \$100,000
- City of Atlanta West Area Combined Sewer project \$700,000
- City of Atlanta, Nancy Creek project, for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements \$1,000,000
- MARTA, automated Fare collection/Smart card system \$4,700,000
- MARTA, Hamilton Clean Fuels Bus Facility \$1,000,000
- Noise Walls on I-20 from Fulton Industrial Boulevard to H.E. Holmes, Fulton County \$500,000

Seniors Medicare Town Hall Meeting

In anticipation of the push for new Medicare legislation, Congressman John Lewis hosted a Town Hall Meeting at Quality Living Services (QLS) to discuss the program and Congress's efforts to add a prescription drug benefit to this program. Over 200 seniors turned out to express their concerns about drug prices and learn more about the federal proposals advanced to address these concerns.

Joining him at the event were Kathy Floyd of the American Association of Retired Persons and Dr. Adam Atherly of the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. These two experts analyzed the prescription drug benefit proposals before Congress and helped answer specific questions about the current Medicare program.

The seniors wanted to know how the legislation in Congress would affect those who already had prescription drug coverage and whether the legislation would force them into a health maintenance organization (HMO). Congressman Lewis told those in attendance that he would work to ensure that Congress addresses these concerns. He also stated that he believes health care is a right and that the quality of care seniors receive should not depend on the size of their pocketbook or the location of their zip code.

Teachers Roundtable on Education

On April 5, Congressman John Lewis met with teachers and principals from throughout Georgia's Fifth Congressional District to talk about education. The Teachers Roundtable focused primarily on federal education policy, especially the No Child Left Behind Act.

In all, several dozen educators sat down with him for several hours to share their thoughts about the state of education and what Congress could do to make it easier for them to educate our children and prepare them for success outside of the classroom. The Congressman is a strong believer in the value of a good education and often states that "education is the great equalizer."

Teachers expressed their frustration that testing and bureaucratic control were stifling their ability to teach. Many participants felt that there are serious flaws in the No Child Left Behind Act and asked that Congress closely examine the impact of that law and consider changing the law to make it function better. Congressman Lewis assured those in attendance that he would do what he could at the federal level to address their concerns and promised to continue working with them to ensure that our children have the educational system they deserve.

The Congressman's Economic Update

Even though the national economy could be recovering, the nation's joblessness and economic growth have remained the worst since the Great Depression. Over the past two years, Congress has passed three major tax cuts that will total \$4.3 trillion by 2013. Since the cuts were enacted, unemployment has risen to over 6%, and since the year 2000, the economy has lost 3.2 million jobs. In Georgia alone, over 67,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost since January 2001. In addition, real median income has fallen by \$1,400, and the long-term unemployment rate — the number of people who have been seeking work for more than 27 weeks — is the highest in 19 years.

Congressman Lewis opposed these tax cuts because he felt they represented irresponsible fiscal policy. Evidence has borne out his concern. The consequences of these tax cuts has included the erosion of the \$5.6 trillion projected federal budget surplus inherited by President Bush and the explosion of the federal budget deficit to \$480 billion. And it continues to rise. These projected deficits are the largest in American history. By 2008, the interest alone on our nation's accumulated debt for the average family of four will be \$6,612. That means that over the next several years, more of your tax dollars will go toward paying down the interest for tax cuts that went to someone else.

Meanwhile, long-term debt slows economic growth and forces interest rates to rise. So in addition to paying more taxes for less, you'll also pay more to finance your home, for college and afford other major expenses.

Congressman Lewis is committed to stand for fiscally responsible economic policy that affords the greatest benefits to working families and all Americans. He will be fighting to reign in federal spending to preserve the sound economic future of the nation.



Congressman Lewis fields questions about Atlanta's sewer problem at a 5th District constituent forum.

Tour of St. Joseph's Mercy Care Services



Rep. Lewis presented a check for \$337,677 to Mercy Care Services for its Breast and Cervical Cancer Program, representing its portion of federal appropriations in this year. (L-R) U.S Representative John Lewis takes a tour of Saint Joseph's mobile mammography unit. He is escorted by Nevla Warren, mobile mammography coordinator, Bonnie Phipps, president and CEO of Saint Joseph's Health System, and Tom Andrews, president of Saint Joseph's Mercy Care Services.

The Congressman and 5th District Realtors



Georgia REALTORS thanked Congressman John Lewis for his support on real estate issues. Pictured left to right are David Thomas, LaDonna Jordon, Congressman Lewis, Federal 5th District Coordinator Ben Lilly, Jennie Jacobs, Federal 6th District Coordinator Shea Zimmerman and Federal Senate Coordinator Clayton Foster.

2003 U.S. Service Academy Forum



In October of each year, the Congressman hosts a U.S. Service Academy Forum for high school students living in the Fifth Congressional District, who are interested in attending a service academy. This year the forum was held on Saturday, October 25, 2003, at the Georgia Power Company located on Ralph McGill Boulevard.

Representatives from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy attended. The members of the Fifth Congressional District U.S. Service Academy Selection Board were also on hand to answer questions.

Any student who wishes to attend a U.S. Service Academy must receive a nomination from his or her congressman or senator. It is a highly competitive field. The forum is a chance to learn about the process and meet the people who make the decisions.

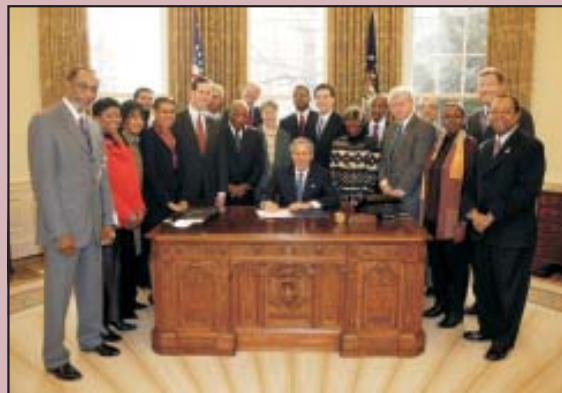
The District Office coordinates the forum and the service academy nominations for the Congressman and assists potential service academy candidates to complete their file. When the file is completed, the student is scheduled for a personal interview by the Service Academy Selection Board Committee. The interviews were held in the District Office on Saturday, December 13, 2003. The committee looks forward every year to nominating the best and the brightest to represent the Fifth Congressional District of Georgia at a U.S. Service Academy.

Look forward to these upcoming Constituent Events:

- The 5th Congressional District Art Competition on May 14, 2004
- The 5th Congressional District Senior Citizens' Event in October, 2004.
- The Congressman's constituent forums in the following areas: Buckhead, East Point/College Park, Grant Park, Midtown/Downtown, Sandy Springs, Smyrna, Southwest Atlanta, and Virginia Highlands.



Congressman John Lewis spoke about the passage of the museum bill at a Senate news conference. He was accompanied by other congressional bill supporters and colleagues. (L-R) Sen. Sam Brownback (KS) Senate co-sponsor; Congressman John Lewis (GA) chief sponsor of the bill, Rep. Elijah Cummings (MD); Sen. Bill Frist (TN) Senate Majority Leader; Sen. Rick Santorum (PA); Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (NY); Sen. Ted Kennedy (MA); Sen. Chris Dodd (CT) Sen. co-sponsor of the bill.



Congressman Lewis, other congressional colleagues and members of the Plan for Action Presidential Commission attended the White House signing for the museum bill.

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